



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is a leader in addressing HIV/AIDS and remains steadfast in its commitment to ending the epidemic; and

Whereas, since the first cases were reported more than four decades ago, nearly 204,625 New Yorkers have been diagnosed with AIDS, and there are approximately 104,124 persons currently living in New York State with diagnosed HIV/AIDS; and

Whereas, New York State is taking bold and unprecedented measures to significantly decrease estimated new HIV infections statewide by *first*, identifying persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to care; *second*, linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to care and treatment with access to medication to maximize HIV viral suppression; recognizing early initiation of antiretroviral medication dramatically improves the health of people living with diagnosed HIV, including stopping disease progression from HIV to AIDS, and directly supporting the “Undetectable equals Untransmittable” (U=U) message that individuals with a sustained undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit HIV; and, *third*, providing access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for prevention; and

Whereas, Pre-Exposure (PrEP) and Post-Exposure (PEP) Prophylaxis are proven to be highly effective in preventing transmission and curbing the spread of HIV; as of December 2022, New York State requires insurance companies to cover PrEP and PEP, making it available, accessible, and affordable to all eligible New Yorkers; and

Whereas, there has been tremendous progress in achieving the ultimate goal to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, however, the disease continues to disproportionately affect communities of color; for people newly diagnosed with HIV last year, the rates of new HIV diagnoses among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic individuals were 7.6 and 4.8 times higher, respectively, than the rate for non-Hispanic White individuals; and

Whereas, World AIDS Day is an opportunity to remember those we have lost and to recognize those who continue to provide support and leadership in the fight to end HIV/AIDS in our lifetime; and

Whereas, New York State stands with communities across the state, nation, and world in recognizing the need to promote HIV testing, early treatment access, and to expand and strengthen the overall global effort to prevent new HIV infections;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize December 1, 2023 as

WORLD AIDS DAY

in the Empire State, and rededicate ourselves to the fight against HIV/AIDS during the annual “Ending the Epidemic Summit.”



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at
the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth day
of November in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh